



## DeKalb County Building Department

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### Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Spa Building Code Requirements

Excerpts from 2003 International Residential Code and 2002 National Electrical Code

#### APPROVED SAFETY BARRIERS:

1. **Side of pool:** The pool ledge (top) must be 48 inches above finished grade at all points or the side of pool will NOT constitute an approved safety barrier. Pools which are dug into hills or rises will require an alternate safety barrier in addition to the pool sidewall.
2. **Brick wall:** Wall must be 48 inches to top above finished grade at all points.
3. **Fences:**
  - Fences with horizontal and vertical rails must comply with the following
    - If 45 inches or more between horizontal rails, spacing between vertical rails may not exceed 4".
    - If less than 45" between horizontal rails, spacing between vertical rails may not exceed 1.75 inches.  
(Other restrictions apply if decorative cutouts are provided in either of these fence styles.)
  - Chain Link Fences must be 48 inches above grade to top rail at all points with no openings exceeding 1-3/4 inches square.

#### APPROVED GATES:

1. **ALL Gates** must be self-closing, self-locking, close toward pool, same construction requirements as fences with self-latching devices at least 54 inches above bottom of gate **or** at least 3 inches below top of a 48 inch high gate with no openings greater than 1/2 inch within 18 inches of latch.
2. **Where house wall** serves as pool barrier and doors open to pool area, alarm must be provided on door or pool must have a powered safety cover.

#### ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS:

ALL provisions of the 2002 National Electrical Code regarding swimming pools must be met, including;

1. Wiring to pool must be installed in RMC, IMC, RNC (Schedule 80 / above-ground), with a minimum #12 insulated copper conductor (ground).
2. All metal parts must be bonded with a #8 solid bonding conductor (Pool, motor, etc.)
3. Disconnecting means (switch) must be provided - located a minimum distance of 5' from pool.
4. Cord from pool motor must be #12, no more than 3' in length, with a twist-lock connector (plug).
5. Pool motor receptacle must be single, twist-lock GFCI-protected with an "in-use" cover (waterproof), located at least 5' from pool.
6. At least (1) GFCI-protected convenience receptacle must be located between 10 to 20' from pool